Ross Dowson archives – Correspondence – year 1956

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02_08 Letter to Joe (Hansen, SWP-USA) re Earl Birney autobiography

04_09 Letter to Comrade Haase (BC): his letter to the *Vanguard,* the nature of pacifism, CCF club work

05_18 Letter to Farrell (Dobbs, SWP) re his visit to Buffalo and Toronto intervention into Stalinists' 20th Congress CPSU crisis

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06_13 Letter to Toronto Branch, Canadian Section of the Fourth International (request for agreement to waive national convention in favor of a national tour by two comrades)

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07_09 Minutes of meeting July 9 (found in 1956) re: educational Program; debate planned on Canadian nationalism

10_21 Letter to Comrades (Gulkin, Arnold, Caron, Montreal) re your resignation from the LPP and role of *Vanguard*'s orientation to CCF

10_24 Letter to Toronto Branch comrades from the Political Committee

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10_27 Letter to Comrades re trans-Canada tour report

10_27B Letter to Tom (Kerry? SWP, ISR editor) regarding promising Montreal contact G. Glazer

12_99 (Undated letter) to Dear Comrades: report that paper has over 1,000 subscribers

569 Yonge
January 17, 1956

Dear Wally and Carmel;

I suppose you figure that I owe you a letter and I suppose that I do.too.

We 've been keeping quite busy, what with the paper, the last issue and now the next issue, the classes, the financial drive, putting a subscription base under the paper, Paddy's case and so forth.

And how did you like the last issue. Be sure to let us know. Dont give us shit now but we certainly do want intelligant criticism. We certainly do wnat to know what these who have to circulate it really think of it--its good aspects and its failings. This last issue was a real joint effort. All told I think 9 comrades wrote for it--the bulk of them never having written for our press before. I made quite a terrible editorial job, going over everyhitng checking it and rechecking it. Peter's article never did get printed although it it turns out that he spent 32 hours on it. Each time I would suggest some changes he would take it back and write a totally new article so we ended up agreeing that we would work it over for this issue. Kit spent about 10 hours on her article....everyone is beginning to learn what it means to write with our ideas. There is nothing like writing to learn, to think in a logical and disciplined way. Jim is doing a good job. We have had two sessions going over the paper. Henerally we are agreed that it carried too independent a line..not CCF left enough. This is a danger we are always going to face. After all here in Toronto the CCF is so ~~xxxxx~~ dead , the few comrades still in there under such close surveillance . It is hard to remember when writing the paper that there is a CCF and that we want to write it as a genuine CF left would want it written.

You being in CCF circles, knowing the level of development, what these people are thinking their reactions, what they consider to be issues of interest and importance can be of great help. And then on top of that you know that I have considerable respect for your critical faculties--so be sure to tell us what you think of number 2

And does it look like you have anything developing down there for number 3? We are going to carry an edit on Duplessis moving in on the newsprint corporations. I would think that we have plenty of material on that as the Globe and Mail is up in arms against Duplessis,giving front page editorials and so are sure to supply lots of critical material for our use. Is there anything else of importance--maybe nothing big but some interesting development, symptomatic, that we could carry in a box or left jab? The deadline is January 23rd here. So if you have anything of interest send it in ~~before~~ by then.

Duplessis must now appear as the real trust buster in Quebec eyes. By removing the tax privileges enjoyed by the one pulp company he exposes all the other exemtions that his governments and probably Liberal governments before him had granted to Big Business. The owners of Globe and Mail must have pulp and paper interests, they go along with the price boost in paper and wanr that Duplessis is going to supress freedom of the press--what we have of it... through control of paper. What is the CCF having to say about this--pardon me--PSD de Quebec.

I mailed you the Tribune and Militant a week or so ago. The front page article on the Tribune is interesting and worth showing around--drawing the political lines. Did you write for Frank Hansen's pamphlet THE MARCH TO FREEDOM from the Sask Commonwealth at Hamilton and South Railway Streets, Regina, Saskatchewan. I got a bunch the other day and it turns out to be 5 cents a copy--I think they would sell you ten at one third discount.

We have started to put a subscription base under the paper and from all first signs it looks good. Bruce went out to see various activists in the Hugh Park club where he and I worked--he got 4 subs out of 6 calls. Meyer had just a good results with people in the Greenwood club area where he had been active. Of course only the expelled comrades are moving out over these lists. Those still in the CCF are working on a much more modest basis--getting subs from persons they know--more as a favor, not as vigorous partisans of the Workers Vanguard.

Closed off the last of the classes on Hustory of Canadian Soc alism with mine last Sunday. We have been getting good attendance to these all along. The next two Sunday night classes down here will be on THE STRUGGLE FOR A PROLETARIAN PARTY which will cove Lenin's book WHAT IS TO BE DONE along with the organizational experiences of the movemnt here in Canada...they should be a good antidote for some of the small talk you come in contact with here. After these closed ones we will be moving into the open ones again probably dealing with some of our basic principles. Our branch meetings are really getting big now and with all these new comrades we need to go over some of our basic ideas. A hell of a problem to be confronted with eh waht--growth, assimilating new people.

And Paddy's case--no doubt as you have beeen reading the letter you have been wondering what this could be. Well Paddy a few weeks ago out of the blue received notice that the international representative of his union was proferring charges against him. The trial was just last Saturday. He was charged with being a Trotsky Communist--- just plain Communists, Fascists Nazis are barred constitutionally from the union. He was also ch charged with disrupting the local--passing a motion calling upon other locals to protest the coming of McCarthy to Toronto over two years ago. Locals are not allowed to communicate with one another--it must be through the international office in the States. Paddy did not now this, the local didn't the international Rep didn't, the action was blocked and so in effect no offence of a constitutional characteewas committed nonetheless he was charged. We have not yet had the finding of the trial--it will come from the international executive within two weeks. Paddy is convinced that they will have his head--it was a real kangaroo court--the internatio al bureaucrat who heard the case cut him off from questioning evidence, from stating his case right and left. Well we will have a civil rights case on on our hands. That union has construction welding in lower Ontario completely sown up. Paddy will not be able to work at his trade should they barr him from the union. It is not probable that he would be able to get into production welding in few of his age so he is being deprived of his right to work. Of course with our slender resources we would not be able to fight such a case. As soon as we dig up the money to buy a copy of the trial record we will go over it, then if they barr him we will hot foot it down to ssee the Civil Liberties Assochation to see what they will do. The CCF brass appear to be in on this job. There were two peices of evidence presented which it would seem to me only they could supply--a back issus of Labor Challenge 8 years ago, with an article by Paddy, probably the only one in the retire file, also a copy of one of the letters that he sent out during the expulsions . When Paddy suggested they were several days ago I just laughed but it would appear that the CCF leaders cannot stoop too low. At anyrate within a few weeks we may well have a civil rights case of national importance on our hands. Stanton is becoming the most persecuted man in the country. As our old man said about us --that under the blows of Stalinism we become stronger, more steeled--well under the blows of the right wing socialixx democrats Stanted becomes more militant

Be sure to keep us in touch with the progress of your youth work. We need a picture of what is going on in the labor and socialist movement right across the country--right now in order to keep the paper sansitive to all the possibilities and over all to keep the preitnation correctly adjusted . If any problems come up and you t ink that we might be of aid by all means xxght write us. If we cannot take time out to reply in detail we will be able to send down material that will answer your questions . After all we have a weel stocked library and the movement has a long tradition of experiences--probably your will be basically the same as other before you had with only subtle nuances of d fference.

I must close off now as I want to get several other eletters out before having to get down to my own articles. I must also get after the people who are mine to rasie fr funds from to fianance the paper. My regards to everyone -- warmest greetings Ross

Letter
(Spartacist) International Socialist Review (SWP)
Hansen, SWP

February 8, 1956

Dear Joe;

I am writing you this note immediately upon receipt of yours ~~xxxx

The only character that is dealt with in what may be called a xxxxxxxxxx a sympathetic way is MacDonald who is accused of being a Cannonite and if I recall correctly is supposed to have pulled his group out of the movement...he dies in prision. Spector gets the rohgh treatment. He is after the same girlxx Thelma Barstow that our errant hero is after covering up all the time his amorous plans with political plans xxx Once getting our hero out of the way working for the movement in Vancouver he elopes with her to Montreal where he takes a job as an anti-union consultant for some corporation. It appears that the marriage is never consummated and Themlma marries another comrade to retire into the raising of a family. I tell you this for but for a change of characters part of this really happened. xxxxxx Only Birney got the girl, wnet off on a hone moon, the marriage was not consummated. He ends up as Canada's war poet, the girl marries another comrade and retires to raising a family.

I am afraid that I cannot be of much help in filling in the Birney career. I never ever really knoew him. ..or much about him. He suddenly appeared in the movement here in Toronto late '37 or early '38. The anti-CCF entry group were unted with the proCCF enty group on the basis of reconsolidating the movement on an independent basis at the 1938 Chicago convention. With the unification Birney appeared as the national leader....he was supported by two younger comrades upon whom all responsib ilities had been thrown with the retirment of MacDonald. They formed sort of a triumvirate(Kennedy, Easton, Robertson) Where he had been before this I do not know--possibly he had been around for a few years and I did not know it for I was working in a totally different melieu than the entrists. I subsequently learned that with his flaming red beard he worked quite openly on the U of T campus. My impression is that he had only recnelty come from England when I first met him . The 1939-40 fight was of course soon on us, Kennedy, Easton took a good position but what with the war they dissapeared into their own petty-bourgeois nitch--one going to the Uinviersity of Chicago the other ending up in a top social services job here. Birney went from Burnham to open support of the war. Next I saw him he was putting soldiers through intelligence testing in the Toronto depot

I see my specuations about his appearing on the Toronto scene are fairly correct--I have before me the dust jacket of one of his book of poems with a short biography. I will type it out;

born in 1904 in Calgary--graduated from U of BC 1926 with first class honours in English language and literature. Later he was a teaching fellow at the U of Californal, an instructro in English at the U of Utah, and a Royal Society of Canada Fellow at the U of London, England. He secured his MA and PhD at the U of Toronto and joined the English staff of University College in that institution in 1936.

during the war he exchanged his Assistant Professorship for uniform and served three years as a Section of Personel Officer. He became Senior SPO at the Selection and Appraisal Center in Egland and later until invalided home was in charge of Personell Selection for the Canadian Army in the North West Threater

on his return to civil life Major Birney was supervisor of European foreign language boradcasts for CBC Radio Canada until the summer of 1946 when he ssumed his present position of Professor of English in U of BC. Dr Birney is spending the year 1953 in Paris on a Royal Society of Canada scholarship ,completing his new novel. From 1936 to 1940 he war literary editor of the Canadian Forum and from 1946 to 1948 editor of the Canadian

Poetry Magazine. "is novel TURVEY won the Leacock Medal for Humour in 1949

Trial of a City and Other Verse is Birney's fourth volume of Poetr His first two books, David and Other Poems 1942 and "ow is Time 1945 won the Governor Generals Award for their respective years. In 1951 he was awarded first prize by the American Poerty Awards foundation for a poem judged to be the best in the English language appearing in any m magazine during the proceeding year."

If you are interested no doubt the "Y library will have a copy of David. I read this when it first came out--- a real stinker--Birney goes off to war to assure that his son David will not know the fascist jack-boot. I suppose this poem marked the decisive turn.

Thank you for suggesting that we might write something for the Spring F.I. I have meant to do just this for somewhile. Unfortunately my conditions of life are g great barrier to doing any serious reading or writing--I am compelled to live behind the store so that we can handle the rent and comrades do not pay much attention to my request that they not come around on my free Monday and Tuesday nights. I am hoping that in the near future we will get into such a financial position that I will be able to achieve some privacy. Do ny count on anything for the Spring issue,however I will earnestly attempt to work up something . Once I seriously start to progress in this I will inform you so that we can talk it over.

woth warmest regards

Ross Dowson

THE SOCIALIST EDUCATIONAL LEAGUE
569 Yonge Street
Toronto 5, Ont.

April 9, 1956

Dear Comrade Haase;

Our friend Paddy Stanton has had to take employment out of town and going through his files the other day I notedthat he had not been able to answer your last letter--so I am taking it up. Stantoh is a welder in the construction industry and is compelled to move about somewhat. Right now he is at Blind River and will in all probability be there for a couple of months.

I have put your name on the bundle list of the Vanguard for 5 copies. Sorry this was not done earlier. You should bevgetting the April bundle very shortly. We received your list of names and addresses. Both the March isse and April issue have been sent to these addresses. For your information so far none of these persons have taken up subsciptions. However our experience tells us that this by no means signifies dis-interest. We have found people who were quite enthusiastic about the paper who for various reasons neglected to send in a subscription but were more than anxious to take out one when we called on them. Best of luck in your calling on them for subscriptions.

You will be pleased to know that we are doing quite well building up a subscription base under the paper. Our articlevin the last issue on the BC CCF provoked considerable interest amongst those BC CCFers we mailed copies to. About a dozen subscriptions came in the mail from a limited sample mailing. Of course what we really need is persons who can make a point of moving in and around the working class movement seeking subscriptions . This is what we have been doing in Toronto with our organized forces. The League members have been carrying out distributions of sample copies, doing door to door subscription work on CCF contact and membership lists and doing consistant work among friends. This last Sunday 7 or 8 of us went out canvassing on lists of select persons we thought interested. Tonight a couple of members are taking the paper down to a special rally of CCL unionists, for the most part delegates to the Toronto CCL Council. This meeting has been called so that the top CCL brass can attempt to meet the many criticisms that have developed over the authority of the convention of the Canadian Labor Congress convention that takes place here within a few weeks. We have an edit in this issue that takes up this question and gives our opinion. Of course we think that the CLC should endorse the CCF as its political arm--the top CCF-trade union leadership however have made a deal with the Joadin (he is a Liberal) and other AFL-TLC bureaucrats. A couple of our people are delegates to the council and will be in attendance. It will be interesting to see how the rank and file receive the leadership's arguments. We will probably report this in detail along with a convention report in the next issue.

We will be distributing free sample copies at the above meeting. Heretofore we have sold the paper at the council meetings--but there will be a great many new people there tonight and above all we want our editorial in their hands. We also intend to do another distribution at a meeting that the LPP is arranging for Tim Buck sometime late this month. We feel that now with the dumping of the Stalin cult and the servile flip flop of the LPP leadership on this matter that there is some possibility that some persons who have been going along with the LPP can be won to socialism and the League. I would be interested somethime you have the opportunity to hear from you on the two articles that we have carried on recent developments in the USSR and the world CP'm.

I found your letter to the Vanguard quite interesting. I would say that the viewpoint that you express is generally Marxist. Are you acquainted with the writings of Marx and Engels and the writings of contemporary Marxists? For instance I noted that you gave no credit at all to the idea that the last war was a war between fascism and democracy--your whole approach was that it was a xxx an imperialist war on both sides. This view which I share with you is not at all an common view. For as you know neither the CCF as a movement, the Labor Progressive Party held to it but were up to their necks in chauvinism. Even in the face of what came out of the war none of the labor fakers have revised their views or confessed their errors. With regards to the preparations for a coming war I see that you take the same general Marxist approach---that the war is imperialist from the point of view of the West and I take it defensist from the point of view of the USSR xxxxxxx China and Eastern Europe. This is a real minority opinion in the CCF these days..not that this opinion isn't increasing its hearing.

I am wondering if you have ever had the good fortune to have read two excellent pamphlets; Socialism on trial and In defence of Socialism by James P. Cannon and Albert Goldman. Cannon along with 18 other leaders of the American Socialist Workers Party were put on trial by the US government in 1941 for their opposition to World War II. These pamphlets are the verbatim record of the court hearing. They are the best pamphlets on socialism that I have ever read. We happen to handle them in a bookstore that I operate at the above address--the Toronto Labor Bookstore. They sell at 50 and 25 cents.

I seem to recall that in your first letter you stated that you were a pacifist. What is your opinion of the struggles as they are developing in the colonial world--do you support them as they move into the fiedd of military conflict. I have found that the term pacifist is used very widely. The pacifist wing of the CCF xxxxprior to World War II was quite powerful under the leadership of Woodsworth--but in the face of the reality of the war it broke apart and its dilemma no doubt to some degree accounted for the death of Woodsworth who was certainly a man of principle and courage. His pacifism became a personal matter which led him to abstain on the vote in the house and at the same time turn the leadership of the movement and endorse the pro-war speech of Coldwell.

It seems to me that pacifism, if it doesn't rejedt at least deplores the class struggle. Eugene V Debs who opposed World War I was not a pacifist but a participant and appostle of the class struggle. He opposed the war with a call for socialism and socialist struggle against war. He did not hesitate to identify himself with Wilhelm Leibhecht, leader of the German socialist left who declared that the enemy is in our own country or with Lenin who called for the turning of the imperialist war into civil war.. Generally Debs and his supporters in the American Socialist Party identified themselves with the left socialists of Europe who published the Zimmerwald manifesto

This question is of great moment what with the colonial struggles being the most significant conflicts of our time.

But life is ever more interesting than theory. You have not told us what is doing in the hamlet of Deircleand. Is there a CCF club in the area. I suppose all your neighbours farm, or are there civilians in number at Cold Lake? Have you elected a CCF M.P. to the legislature? What is the general character of the movement in the Deircleand area?

Here most of the League members are in the CCF clubs--pretty well scattered across the city. The clubs are operating on a very low level of activity these days. Right now there is a membership drive but this work is done pretty much on an individual basis. The only bright spot is the preparation that the CCL Labor Council is making to rally a mass meeting for the party on the question of a nationally owned pipeline. There are all too few of this type of mass public activity. Things are hoping too in CCF trade union ranks right now on the question of the unification of the two trade union centers and the authority of the coming Congress. The top trade union brass have made a deal to the effect that the united congress' constitution is not to be debated or changed in anyway at this months unification meeting. The CCF element in the top brass have made a deal that the issue of political endorsation of the CCF will not hit the floor. This is causing quite a turmoil amongst CCF rank and file trade unionists. Within the AFL unions the drive for political action in the direction of the CCF has come almost entirely from the ranks and against the opportunistic opposition of CCFers who are high in the AFL-TLC bureaucracy.

The last High Park club meeting that I attended saw some of the members oppose the provincial secretaryon the matter of the three provincial MP's voting with the tory government on the passage of funds for the pipe line bridge across northern Ontario. The CCF MPP'S vote with the government although they spoke against it. But by and large the movement here is quite stagnant at this time. What we need is above all a change in objective conditions that will through new layers of workers into contact with the movement

Looking forward to hearing from you.

fraternally

Moss Dowson

Do you ever manage to get down to Lloydminster or Streamstown. I am wondering if you know a chap by the name of Vic Bystrom. I have been in correspondence with him off and on for some years now. He has always impressed me a well grounded socialist.

569 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ont.
May 18, 1956

Dobbs, SWP, New York

Dear Farrell;

Sorry to hear that you were unable to step over when you were in Buffalo. However I suppose we did the next best thing. I understand that there were 10 of us over to hear you. Everyone enjoyed your talk very much. We certainly are looking forward to seeing both you and Myra on your tour.

Probably you got a sketchy picture of things up here. We are making slow but steady progress. The situation seems to be opening up for us with regards to the Stalinists. I am enclosing two leaflets that we put out recently. The one(A) we distributed to the Stalinist May Day meeting here in Toronto---about 1,300 attended and we passed out about 800 of this leaflet along with our April issue of Vanguard. The second leaflet (B) was distributed to a specail meeting that the Stalinists called at their main quarters here to provide Buck with an opportunity to meet the membership on the questions flowing out of the 20th Congress. This was announced at the May Day meeting at which there was no discussion or questions. This second meeting saw about 450 turn out, mostly older persons, the majority from the language groups. We managed to get about 150 of them to take the leaflet inserted in our May issue. About 6 of the comrades went into the meeting and three or four took the floor with prepared questions. Generally the atmos here was friendly. They recognized our people and heard their questions---no Trotsky baiting. They met our distributors fairly passively---a couple of the distributors got into conversations with some of their youth on a friendly plane---they insisted that we come into the meeting.

We had prepared questions---but we misjudged the atmosphere. It was very critical. The latest issue of their paper contains letters particularly from Montreal that are extremely sharp. ..they have just opened up the discussion here in their paper and it is wide open. Buck had a difficult time with the questions. He conceded the Lenin Testament and presented the picture of a Stalin who took Lenin's criticism and restrained himself for ten years...until 1934. Then he became"nothimself "....in large part due to the Trotskyists. Here he brings up the canard that the Trotskyists were opposed to building socialism in the USSR. It would seem to me that the Militant in a future issue could well afford to take this matter up. They appear to be reverting to the pre Moscow Trials version of Trotskyism---unending revolutions, to hell with the USSR and the problems of ~~downgrading~~ the situation there, etc. They are carrying this discussion further this coming Wednesday night and we will be there in force. The Conhranites were there(3) but didn't open their mouths. We are going to deepen our contact with the Stalinist movement particularly its youth group. We are already in contact with a group who were expelled about a year ago---several of them Negro. They are reading our papers but they do not seem very promising. It appears that we can move around them fairly freely. A couple of months ago we sent a couple of comrades into a study circle they conduct. Montreal may prove to be promising as they reinstated a whole group that had been expelled about 5 years ago and one would think that they would be quite critical. We are planning a trip down there next week end. If we get any real breaks and ideas from our experiences we will send them on.

We received your note with regards to our candidate to the school. Thanks for your assurance that we are in. Everyone here is looking forward to Jennings having this opportunity. As you know we suffer a real crisis of leadership up here....we can hardly wait for this term to start.

fraternally
Ross Dowson

E4 - 1946-56 BRITTANIA BRANCH

May 24, 1956

I have been hoping to pick up your extremely interesting letter now for a long time. But there are so many things going on down here. Last weekend we had the Ontatio provincial CCF convention. Last night Tim Buck held his second meeting to attempt to explain the revelations that have come out of the 20th Congress of the CPSU. Tonight I am due to spend an evening with a chap who we have met who has considerable artistic ability and who is anxious to do cartoon for the Vanguard--and we need a cartoonist badly. Tomorrow night the first of four lectures that the League is holding on the Communist Manifesto is taking place---and so it goes from week to week. All very interesting but hard to find your way to sit down to a typewriter for any length of time.

But to take up the many aspects of your letter in a methodical way;;
to

I would like first tell you that we have entered that very nice little grupp of subscriptions to the Vanguard that you sent in. You will be pleased that the work of building up our sub list is going along steadily. Last Monday a couple of the of the comrades took the paper down to the meeting of the CCL union council and sold 16 copies to an audience of about 70. Tonight a couple of comrades are covering the TLC union council meeting. The League is also holding regular Saturday afternoon sub rallies to cover leads that have been gathered together.

I gather you have received the two Minneapolis Trial pamphlets . Sometime you have the opportunity I would like very much to know what you think of them.

I am enclosing a receipt from the secretary of the Socialist Educational League for the six dollars that you enclosed in your last letter earmarked Education League Membership. So far we have only establish a working body of the League in the Toronto area. That of course does not mean that we are not ambitious to build branches everywhere. At this stage of affairs I guess your membership in the League signifies not much more than a very warm and I must say welcome expression of socialist solidarity with what we are able to do down here . But I hope that we can help you in some other way in your area--in some other way than the continued publication of the paper. And this summer we just might be able to do so. The executive met last Sunday and flowing out of a discussion there we are investigating the possibilities, the practicability of comrades Mitchell and Stanton making a tour right across Canada. And of course that would mean going into Pierceland. There would be a lot to such a project. For instance we would have to buy a truck or someking of vehicle so that they could move freely off the main bus and rail lines, carry literature in quantity and possibly sleep in. We are investigating what t is would cost us and what we could realise out of the selling of the truck on the way back, perhpas in Regina where prices are higher than here in the East. We would have to raise funds to really stock the vehicle with literautre--for sales could partly cover gas and wear and tear

Letter to Haase, Pierceland May 24/56

Note by R.D.

our own views. Of course the paper can most effectively serve this purpose. You can be sure that whenever there is the slightest doubt as to the line advanced in any- one of the artciels there is a real discussion here in our League meeting. And of course our editorial baord also sees a rounded discussion on any material that is assigned and of course as you can appreciate much of the material is assigned as there are certain problems that have to be taken up in each issue. The Toronto Labor Book store is also a big asset in our own education and our general propaganda. It has an excellent stock of all the important books, pamphlets and papers. This keeps all our own people well informed not to speak of providing them a place to send t eir contacts to. Anti e there are any discussions on any contentionus points you would be suprised to see how much material there is available on the matter waiting for the reader. It would seem that nearly everything nearly every problem has been dealt with by the Marxist movement as sometime or another. Maybe not exactly or precisley but in general. The more I read the more I have had to conclude that the main problems the theoretical problems , have been resolved by the socialist movement---the task is to popularize and make known our ideas.

And as we put more flesh on our bones and wecare able to reach a true division of labor it should be possible to carry on an effective correspondence in which we can discuss new and more particular problems. As things go now I am tied up too much in the store but as it gets to be a bteer paying proposition I hope to be able to step out of the store in order to devote more time to correspondence, contact work, etc.

A few words about wars, what comes out of them and their intention. Yes of course both World War I and World War II were imperialist wars---on the part of both of the main protagonists it was a war for re-division of the world market, for conquests of areas where surplus captial could be invested on a highly profitable basis, for sources of key and chaap raw materials. World War I it was a case of Germany searching to break out of the strangulation of herm economy by the British control of the world market. World War II it was again an attempt of Germany along with Japan to break out of the strangulation of their economies . Oyt of these wars as you suggest regardless of their cause, the intention of those who conducted them, came something good---the Russian Revolution, The Yugoslav and Chinese Revolution, in fact the collapse of the whole colonial system of exploitation. However there are other wars or what are in effect wars. Right now in Algerai there is being waged a most bloody war--I see the French report that they have murdered 11,000 Algerains in the past 19 months. This is a war of the exploited against their exploiters. In my opinion socialists are 100% in support of such a war. I see that the French CP has had to adjust its policy somewhat and is now calling for Peace in Algeria. In my opnion the only slogan that socialists can raise is Algerai for the Algerians--not peace but victroy, the establishment of the rights of the Algerian peoples. Here I am not a pacifist. Who started a war seems to me to be of little importance---war is loaded right in the system of things. A union is always on the defensive for everything always favors the employer. When a nuion comes out on a strike, which is hardly a passive action, a pacifist action, socialists I believe should always be in support of the union. The class struggle which Coldwell says doesn't exist but which is the greatest reality is a form of war, war between classes, ebbing and flowing, overt,and subteranean. It will only be resolved when the workers and farmers have the power when the exploitati on of one class by another is done away with.

Yes, the Soviet economy has proven beyond all possible doubt the complete correctness of the socialist program. Thanks to the plannifaction of the economy, the monpoly of foreign trade, the nationalized resources the Soviet Union has leaped for ward to become the Second World power and is on the way to surpassing the US. When you the term dictatorship in your comment "a person cannot but admire the results of such a dictatorship" are you referring to the rule of Stalin? When Lenin used th term dictatorship of the proletariat he wasn't referring to any such regime as developed und Stalin. He used the term to designate which class would be in power--he called what

we have here today in Canada--bourgeois democracy--the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie. In the early days, even under the period of war communism when the young workers republic was attacked on allfronts there was a much wider democracy than under Stalin. The first Minister of Justice was a Left Social Revolutionary by name Steinberg. As the main threat of foreign intervention subsided istead of there being a flowering od proletarian democracy we found the state bureaucracy increasing its grip and the actual purging of the proletarait from any participation in the governing of affiars ---we saw their political expropriation.

The trade union bureaucracy here in America would like to take the credit for the growth of the trade unions here and their increasing influence and power. They would like us to believe that they, the George Meany's and Claude Jodoin's have made labor what it is today. In the same way Stalin and his lieutenat would like us to believe that the great growth of Soviet exconomy is due to their effrots since they were in authority during this growth. When it comes to the trade unions here I can speak from mt own experience---the unions are the power here in America that they are in site of the Greens, Bengoughts and Meany's. If they were not on top of the unions the unions would be many more times effective as instr ments of the working class. The same goes for the Soviet Union it seems to me. The Soviet Union has gone forward despite the criminal policies of Stalin and his lieutenatns. The foundations laid down in 1917 w were so firm and with such promises that even their rule couldn8t prevent the collosal expansion.

You say you dont believe everything t at they now say about Stalin. Well everything that I have read todate more or less conforms to what I had concluded somewhile back. I recall when I first became interested in socialist ideas I read a book called Russia Twenty Years After by Victor Serge--he was at onetime an meber of the Executive Committee of the Third International. He wrote this book as a communist and a defender of the Soviet Union after he had been released from a Russian prison camp and come to France. This must be back in 1935 or so--he put forward the idea in that book that a bureaucratic clique had fasteneded itself onto the Soviet society who were trying to make a good thing for themswlwves and were destroying the Communist Party and The Soviets and the unions as instruments of workers democracy. Subsequently the Moscow Trials took place where Stalin, Molotov, Vishinsky murdered nearly the entire leadership of the Bolsehvik party. It seems to me that Khrushchev and others are now telling quite a bit of the truth..one of their shortcomings is that they dont say anything about their part in the whole affair--trying to make out that Stalin as one man, alone ,was able to comit such crimes....and of course they do not say how they and Stalin manipulated the communist parties of the world to support their alliances with the imperialist powers both bourgeois democratic and fascistx.... but possibly under the rising pressure of the Soviet people t at too will gradually come out.

Yes, the Iron Heel was an excellent book. What amazing prevision Lodon showed in it...he foresaw the rise of fascism and the betrayal of the r ght wing of the socialist movement--sometime around 1907 when no one was even thinking of such a possibility. The two questions that you end off your letter are extremely important and interesting. Yes it is quite contrary to how Marx and Engles saw thinfs developing that the backward nation of Russia would move towards socialism before the advanced capitalist nations England, France etc. In 1905 after the first Russian Revolution while in prisoon for his leadership of the Petrograd Soviet Tortsky made the prediction quite contrary to the prevailing opinion amongst his co-thinkers that Russian was on the verge of a new revolution that wouldn't stop at its capitalist stage(at that time Russia was basicallybfeudal) but would pass on, skip a stage to the socialst revolution. He wrote this all up in two pamphlets that we have at the store here. Lenin put it this way---the world capitalist chain broke at its weakest link. As for the weak socialist moement in America--I would say that our class has been corrputed by the rise at the expense of the reast of the peoples of the world -f the capitalist economy on this continent--the capitalist have been able thanks to their super position to buy the workers leaders off. Cannon deals at great lenth and detail with this in his most recent and excellent pamphlet called AMERICAS ROAD TO SOCIALISM...we have it in the store for .35.

Everyone I have spoken to about the last issue of the paper enjoyed your contribution very much---we are certinaly looking forward to hearing more from you. We took advantage of your article to send another sample mailing to the list that you sent us somewhile bac Since then several of these persons subscribed but I take it that they may find another copy of the paper of use to pass on.. Thanks ever so much for the group of subscribers. We are slowly but surely putting a real subscription base under the paper. A few of our Torontonians were out doing stright door to door sub work last week. Two of them within about an hour and a half picked up 5 subscriptions a peice

I hope your expectations that the local CCF club will be whipped up into shape by the election opportunity has come to pass. An election certainly presents us with an opportunity to talk to people who in the normal course of affairs are not interested in politics. We would be interested to hear of your impressions of the election campign---I understand the actual vote is June 20. I have been following the Sask Commonwealth closely but this does not give you much---I suppose good use will be made of the Orvis Kennedy statement that Hitler would have been alright except for the influence of international capital upon him.

But I must close or You will be wondering what possibly could have happened to us down here. Hope you liked the June issue.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

June,13, 1956

To the Toronto Branch
Canadian Section of the Fourth International

Dear Comrades;

Our constitution requires that we hold a national convention of the Canadian section this year. It would be highly desireable that we conform to the letter of this requirment. However the national committee, elected by the last convention, has discussed this matter and has decided to ask the party to waive this constitutional requirement.

As you know, due to the widely scattered character of our movement a properly constituted convention is very difficult for us to realize. It is highly probable that a convention held in Toronto this year would see only one or two West Coast delegates. It is apparent that there are no major differences in our ranks at this time that make a convention, regardless of difficulties, absolutely essential.

In the light of these and other facts, the national committee asks permission of the party membership to substitute the convention with a national tour of a very thorough character. This tour, of at least a two month duration would not only allow leading comrades to meet and discuss in detail the sections problems with all the members across the country, including those not able to attend a convention, but would allow us to make new contacts in important areas where we now have none.

Should you be agreeable to this substitution of the convention with a national tour we would ask that you grant leave of absence from the Toronto Branch for the duration of the tour to comrades Jennings and Timber. At your next branch meeting we expect to ask leave of absence for another comrade which we feel will make the tour much more fruitful.

comradely

Ross Dowson

E4 1955-58 RD Tor. Minutes

Minutes - June 20th /56

Chairman - cmd White

Correspondence - letter from Myra regarding her tour schedule - Motion- to table discussion - carried.

Membership & Contacts - Motion - that ML be accepted into the league- carried

Sub-Campaign - report of a distribution at the Labor council's Municipal Workshop - three Militants were sold and 10 Vanguards distributed
In the sub-drive 21 subs were obtained by 6 people.
There will be a sub-drive this Sat in Oshawa for the CCFers in the league
The meeting place is the bookstore at 1:30
Motion - that there be a sub-drive this Mon at the same time and place - car

Educational - Motion - that we have an educational on the topic - Our Orientation and our attitude to the CCF and the LPP.on July 12th - carried

Classes - report on the Communist Manifesto Class.
report on the LPP debate - they are still stalling about their speaker
Motion - that the Toronto Branch does not go ahead with the meeting if the LPP backs out - carried
Motion - That we phone the LPP tomorrow and give them an ultimatum that we get the name of their speaker or the debate is off - carried.

Discussion on the meeting with Myra - Motion - that the meeting be on Tues with a limited attendence of close contacts - carried - Motion - that the branch meeting be held on Wed as scheduled the week of the meeting with Myra - carried.

Social - Motion - that we hold the picnic at Prestonia Beach instead of Chalk Lake - carried

TU&PAC - report on the municipal affairs workshop - it was a very small meeting of about 30. There was a discussion on running on party lables in municipal elections - they were mostly against this - we got some good press publicity on this issue

report on the pepsi-cola local of the brewery -workers - there will be a meeting this Sat to set up union positions, establish policy and lay out activities - our comrades are intending to run for second vice president of the amalgamated local(president of the pepsi cola section) and for steward.
Motion - that the comrades should discuss this with others in the branch before running for posts - car.

LPP - letter from Vancouver - the Stanley Park club has distributed a leaflet for a meeting with Malcolm Bruce - it was a good meeting - 40 people attended, and Bruce identified himself with us.

Good & Welfare - Motion - that Comrade Adair be released to go on the National Tour - carried

Motion - to take the election of Secretary off the table - car.
Cmd Charlie was elected

Adjournment - The educational should have been inserted after Dues and Pledges - Peaceful Transition to Socialism by Cmd Wein.

Minutes of meeting of July 9th 1956 (Formed in 1956)

Present Paul Langley Wein Scott and Kent

Minutes of meeting of May 29th read and adopted

Educationals - Felt by comrade Kent that there is a need for educationals along transitional programme lines to answer day to day issues raised by the CCF and LPP & decided to make them in the branch since there they can be more open and specific and more comrades attend branch meetings than classes. - First two topics recommended Canadian Nationalism - to be handled as a debate between [illegible] Kent and Black and Union Issues to be handled by Paul. Also suggested was the Fight against War.

Classes - two more due on Communist Manifesto one on the last section and a summary of the manifesto as a whole. and its relevance today. Suggested that there be an intermission of a few weeks until the next series starts. Suggested that the next series be on the Trial Pamphlets and that a study outline put out by the SWP be examined by the Educational Convenor and reported on.

Public Meetings - suggested that the public meeting for this Friday be postponed since comrades have been too busy with the tour to make the necessary arrangements and the needle workers are on holidays now. A week from Friday perhaps if enough comrades are not on holidays

Trade Union Meeting not held on ~~Friday~~ SATURDAY due to trip. Discuss possibilities for one now.

Organizer - new one required now Jennings is on tour - recommended comrade Paul

Trade Union Convenor - recommended White

Secretary - now Groves away for the summer and [illegible] Charlie has resigned as interim secretary - leave until Paul has talked to Charlie.

Street Corner Meetings with Kent and 3-4 other comrades delivering short speeches and sell Literature - discuss in branch

LPP - a committee of four be set up to follow LPP press and activities and concentrate on putting out leaflets for distribution to them on current topics such as refusal to debate Poznan uprisings etc. - [illegible] Wein Langley and H R

Contacts - that Paul have a serious talk with HR to find out how political she is.

Meeting adjourned at 930

October 21, 1956

Dear Comrade

We read in the press here in the last week of your resignation from the Labor Progressive Party. While the reason for your actions was not clearly given it was intimated that it was related to the revelations in the Polish paper Folksstimme of anti-semitism in the USSR and the failure of the Labor Progressive Party to take a forthright stand on this important matter.

Under separate cover I have mailed you copies of a paper that we publish here in Toronto which has a national circulation amongst socialist workers. Your opinions and views are of importance to the workers of Canada and we would be pleased to open our pages to you.

We are of course seriously interested in as broad as possible discussion t o break down the barriers between the different political tendencies and establish free communication of ideas. You will note from our July issue that we made important efforts along this line last Spring at some meetings held by the Toronto LPP for Tim Buck. Unfortunately they came to nothing.

We believe that the Vanguard can play an important role in this task. I have just returned from a cross-Canada tour through which we established very good contact with rank and file members of the LPP and with leftists in and around the CCF. In future issues we hope to carry material from Mildred McLeod whom you possibly know through the Peace Congress, Eric Flowerdew whose interesting material on the farm question has been gradually shoved out of the CCF press, Walter Lefaux a Marxist economist who in the past has conducted classes in the BC CCF, and that splendid fighter Malcolm Bruce.

We contemplate turning over page three of our next issue to the question of anti-semitism in the USSR which would include among other items the excellent letter that Professor Levy sent the English Jewish Clarion. But of course developments in Canada around this matter are of even greater importance to our readers, hence this note.

Regardless of your decision on this immediate proposal we would be very much interested in discussing with you any of the questions related to the regroupment of the Canadian Left.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

Copies sent to
Gulka
Arnold
Caron
Montreal

October 24, 1956

From the Political Committee
to the Toronto Branch

Dear Comrades;

We have now been formally notified that the Trotsky school to which we had planned to send some leading comrade of the Toronto branch has had to be abandoned this year. There is a discussion taking place in the South on how to put things in order so that the school can be continued next year. Sometime in advance of the next session the branches will be approached for nominations which will be taken under advisement by the national committee.

As an aftermath of the national tour the Political Committee has had a preliminary discussion of the personel of the party from another viewpoint. For some years the Vancouver branch has been pressing the center to colonize some young and able comrade in their city to help them take advanatge of the very favorable opportunities that exist there. It is only recently, thanks to the steady progress that the Toronto branch has been making, that this proposal could even be considered from a practical viewpoint. The leading comrades in Vancouver have brought this matter again to our attention.

The PC is now making a proposal to the National Committee and the Vancouver branch that we open up a branch office of the Vanguard Publishing Association, a possibly preliminary move to a bookstore, and that it be staffed by a comrade freed from the security requirments that go with work in the CCF. While there is no doubt that it will cost something in the work of the Toronto Friend the Political Committee has suggested to the Vancouver comrades that we are now in a position to meet their long standing request by colonizing comrades Mitchell and Paine in Vancouver in the immediate future.

Such a move in our opinion would mark a big step forward in consolidating much of the work that our Vancouver comrades have been doing in the BC area over the years and allow us to develop much more effectively the new opportunities that were opened up by the recently completed national tour. While the loss of these two valuable comrades to the Toronto work would be a considerable one we are confident that Toronto comrades will be able to tap new resources to fill the gap.

We will keep you informed on the progress of the discussion around this recommendation.

fraternally

R I Dowson

Ross Dowson

Thursday Oct 26,1956

Dear Reg;

Just a few words in explanation of a very important item that appeared in the minutes you received the other day....to do with the proposal that we send two young comrades from here to help you in your work---Jim and Pat.

I have been mulling over this idea for sometime now. The branch has been making slow but steady progress here in the past two years. Upon my return I find that we have a goodly number of fresh new contacts one of whom will probably be recruited within a week or so. The leading comrades have been talking about some one going sooner or later to develop things in Hamilton where we have made good contact in the last couple of years, in Oshawa which is an important industrial area close by where we concentrated some out of town sub work this Spring, and Montreal where we have made good contact in the last month. And so the idea of Toronto cutting off a bit of its living flesh to be transplanted elsewhere on our national skeleton is not a new one for the comrades and is enthusiastically accepted. Of course we have all been talking about sending some young comrade to Vancouver to help you take advantage of the terrific possibilities there---I dont know whether I mentioned it or not but Bill raised the matter again with me before we left. He wanted Allan to stay on. But of course poor driverless me needed Allan to take me back here and besides I think that we are agreed that Allan is not exactly the comrade that we need for this purpose. Enthusiastic but without any real experience other than what he picked up on the trip--which was considerable of course but ...

Some I broached this matter with Jim a few days before the PC meeting who in turn took the matter up with Pat. They are both very enthusiastic about the idea.

When I left you will recall my proposition that Harold be approached put his name out as Vanguard BC representative and that we get an office which could serve as a meeting place and centre generally; and having got that under our belt at a later stage we could possibly carry out the proposition suggested by other comrades of a Vancouver Labor Bookstore. I see that the matter did not come up at all, according to the minutes, in the next two meetings. Of course I do not know the reasons. But at anyrate after further thought I have concluded that it is really not enough that we have just a name and an office....and a hit or miss arrangments of handling correspondence and contacts that we can pick up in the next period that would be inevitable as long as you and Ruth are so burdened. I am convinced that we need a new element in the situation--some comrade who can with minimum expense to the movement devote considerable more time and energy to the situation--a comrade who has already had some experience--and a comrade who is completely untained by our CCF work--who can move around anywhere and everywhere with the Vanguard, who can move in and around the Stalinists, who can do sub work, etc. etc. and the branch moving in behind whenever and whoever it feels advisable.

You comrades of course have been doing some excellent work there over the past y years. I got the impression that there is much that could be consolidated with the addition of a couple of young dynamic, enthusiastic comrades who could really devote some time to things and could move freely.

There is always a certain conservatism about us --an office, a comrade on the payroll--$30 a month $20 to $25 a week. It might present itself to the minds of some comrades as a formidable, a daring, moving on the part of the branch to take such a proposition on. There may well be a sort of balancing of accounts over the past year

to see and possibly prove that it cant be done. It may be pointed out that this would mean the end of funds to Toronto to help put out the paper-a national obligation.

These arguments cannot be dismissed but I do not think that they have very much weight. The task as I see it is that we have to move out. Should we get into difficulties, should things not pan out exactly as we thought they would, then is the time to trim the sails. Personally I think that the comrades will all respond - given the problem confronting it - their participation will rise to new heights. But also this must be clearly pointed out that by this move we will be able to tap fields and resources that up until we make this move are barred from us

With this arrangment you will not be getting just one comrade who will devote all his energies to the work but you will be getting two. Pat I am sure will fit very well into the scheme of things. Her working will relieve the pressure of the need for a higher income to sustain Jim. Besides Pat is a very effective comrade--very methodical, quite aggressive, quite well developed politically and with considerable technical ability. All in all your gains by this move with its modest demands are tremendous.

When this matter was brought before the branch as information I cut in to point out that fortunately here in Toronto we have another comrade who, very anxious to prsent himself as a candidate to the Trotsky school, made arrangments so that he would be free from pressing family responsibilities. Rae, quite casually a few days previously he suggested to me that he would like to take over the store, that he was getting into a position of being able to finance his family (his wife is one of our best activists) with a morning job. This comrade, now with us two years, is one of our most promising. If this were not the situation we could not at this time afford to lose Jim and certainly not Jim and Pat combined. The comrades here, the branch, and of course the two most immediately concerned are prepared to make this sacrifice at this time. Although it is for a period going to cut into our maneuverability.

But I am convinced that the whole move is a necessary one regardless of the efforts required to carry it out from either end.

We are looking forward anxiously to the branch's reply to this proposition. We have decided to hold off selling the truck although we would like to realize the funds tied up in it. Given the word Pat and Jim will pile up what personal belongings will fit into it and will therefore not be compelled to sacrifice some of their goods and will be in a position to quickly and cheaply settle down. They would be there within about two weeks of our receiving your go-ahead.

Will you expedite the discussion on this matter!

Enclosing a copy of a leaflet we hurriedly put out to hit a crisis meeting the Toronto LPP is holding last night-tonight and tomorrow. I suppose you have read of the defection of their entire Quebec leadership. The Canadian Tribune carries Gui Caron's statement of resignation. This statement will have big repercussions. Generally a good one--he dismisses the idea of refomring the LPP. Watch the Pacific Tribune closely--should they not publish it we must circulate it on a big scale among Stalinist workers. We are attempting to establish contact with Caron and his confreres. The goon squad was out to meet us --almost managed to provoke a real hassle.

more later---I want to get out a letter to the Van branch--however being pressed by many things---hope to get it out tomorrow--however if it doesn't get to you in time for the meeting itself--perhaps this along with PC notes will suffice.

Let me know with regards to the next two issues of the PT

Greetings

Ross

By the closing lines ~~you~~ in the accompanying letter you will note that I got to talking about writing to the branch on this matter --however I see now that ~~it~~ while it was necessary to go to the Toronto branch almost immediately and before the discussion on the NC plane ~~as~~ as it was necessary to go to Pat and Jim because without t eir agreements we do not even have a proposition --I see that with regards to Vancouver it still is on the plane of the NC. I suppose that Bill and Lil will be contacting you at once so that the NC can then make its proposition to the branch.

Found in 1956 (SEC)

Dear Reg;

Would you drop this note into Malcolm and have a talk with him about the proposition it contains.

Will try to drop you a line over the weekend. Have to go up and take over the store as five o'clock approaches and Jerry must get on home.

Thanks for the clippings on the convention.... just what I needed to make the article a little less and editorial. I thought that it quite logical that we should mention your leaflet

Ross

October 27, 1956.

Dear Comrades;

The trans-Canada tour that commenced last July 2nd ended upon the arrival last week of the three comrades here at Toronto.

All in all the tour was a great success. Now, for the first time in the history of our movement, do we feel that we have the skeletonal forms upon which to build a national movement.

A considerable number of new readers to our press were gained and a considerable amount of our literature was sold, but much more important than this, contact, good contact, was established with socialist activists in almost a dozen places, persons who can be counted upon to circulate our press and can be expected to come closer to us organisationally and join the movement.

We made excellant contact of this type in Sault Ste Marie, Port Arthur, Kenora, Powell River, Duncan, Cranbrook, Port Alberni, Medicine Hat, etc. In a meeting at Langley Prairie in the Fraser Delta area, 10-12 leading and active CCFers now through with the local organisation, decided to constitute themselves into a Vanguard Discussion Group. The plan agreed upon was to meet once a month to discuss material in the paper, write for the paper and help in its circulation. At Coombs on Vancouver Island a somewhat similar proposal was developed. There however the comrades were unable to help our leading contact get things underway and this will have to be further stimulated by mail.

The Vanguard increased its circulation by 523 subscriptions through the tour - 400 of them were for one year. We had hoped, on the basis of the response in Sault Ste Marie, to get well over 1,000 however the time at our disposal did not permit us to do the door to door work that would have been necessary to get that many. We were compelled to limit ourselves to hitting CCF and LPP activists whose names we already had or others who we heard about from various leads.

The bulk of these subscribers are therefore the more advanced elements in their communities — most of them CCF activists or ex-activists, Stalinist activists, trade union militants. For instance in Kenora, and important northern Ontario railway and lumber town, we have at the moment only four subscribers. Only two of these were on our list. One of those however told us of a worker he thought would be interested. We were unable to see this comrade on the way out but did after some trouble contact him on the way back. He turned out to have been the pioneer CCFer in the community who had quit the party in disgust about three year ago - very friendly, generally a Marxist, enthusiastic about the paper, promised to circulate it. He told us of several other persons we should see but one that we must see on the way out. This lead proved to be a dynamic railway union militant who eagerly purchased $2.70 worth of pamphlet material - inspired by the paper - been touched by Stalinism, gave us leads.

Our first contact outside of Vancouver, Toronto and one or two other points, was made with Stalinist influenced workers on this tour. In a few areas very effective contact - particularly in the Fernie, Michel area was made. For the most part however our leads were prominent Stalinists who were reserved in their relations with us. We were not very successful in selling subscriptions to the paper to them but they showed a willingness to read the Suppressed Testament, The Criticism of the Draft Program. BC Stalinists were unacquainted with the Khrushchev secret speech as it had never been republished in the West Coast paper. They readily purchased the Militant which reproduced the speech and the issue containing Cannon's speech on it.

Our paper is going into the ranks of those workers who are at this time the most advanced workers, in the political and trade union movement right across the country.

Nearly all the persons contacted had been recipients of sample copies of the paper at some time or other. One thing that surprised the touring comrades was the almost total lack of hostility or marked prejudice to the paper. As we mentioned in some places we met a very warm and enthusiastic reception as at Powell River where a former CCF activist placed his car and himself at the disposal of Comrade Dowson for an entire day, introducing Dowson and the paper to everyone in the community whom he thought worthwhile. Upon their return the comrades found a letter from this comrade enclosing four more subscriptions.

We were equally surprised by the lack of prejudice to the writings of Comrade Trotsky - and Lenin's also. While the truck was fitted out to display a very wide assortment of generally radical literature to those who would come out to it, most contacts were met by a folder containing a limited selection of pamphlets, mostly ours. Upon their return the comrades found themselves cleaned out of all copies of the basic pamphlets of our movement.

23 copies of Cannon's America's Road to Socialism were sold - 30 copies of Socialism on Trial, 18 copies of In Defence of Socialism, 15 copies of The Road to Peace, 25 copies of Welfare State or Socialism, 14 copies of Guerin's Negroes on the March, etc. Among Trotsky's writings 17 copies of Stalinism and Bolshevism were sold, 11 copies of Death Agonies and the Tasks of the F.I., 16 copies of the Suppressed Testament, 12 copies of the Copenhagen Speech, 12 copies of the Communist Manifesto Today, 5 copies of the Revolution Betrayed, 5 copies of Stalin's Frame-Up System, etc.etc.

All told the retail value of literature sold was $528.90.

Three public meetings were held. As reported in the press the Winnipeg meeting was blocked. The combined cost of the three meetings was just $100. The Regina meeting attracted 6 persons. The Edmonton meeting attracted only two. The Vancouver meeting 25 to 30 persons. Due to shortage of funds at the time no meeting was held in Calgary although despite the poor attendance at Edmonton the comrades would have liked to have held one. While political interest is very low in Alberta these two cities are extremely important and it is necessary that we make every attempt to contact workers there. Of the two persons who attended the Edmonton meeting one of them, a young railway worker who took a sub and bought the Trial pamphlets, may well develop into something.

The truck, outfitted to suit our purpose, insured and all, cost $523.90. It is difficult to know how much will be realized through resale--probably about $300. But it more than paid for itself by providing lodging for three comrades for three and a half months. It gave the tour the necessary manouverability. Money outlaid for food for that time reached $170.45. Gas cost $347.49.

Financial-wise the tour did not come out as well as we had expected. Profit from the books is about $175.00. The gross amount realised from subs was $232.00. Money donated by comrades and sympathizers to the tour totalled $291.00. Expenses were considerably higher than receipts. However we are confident that this matter will be handled by the movement satisfactorily.

Politically the trip was a huge success. On the basis of this experience we now know how to make the next one even more successful, both politically and financially.

Within two years time we must make another national tour of this same general type. The next one must get off to an earlier start. The return trip of this tour was pretty much a run through--searching out only direct leads. No general subscription work to help meet expenses was possible due to the coldness of the weather and early darkness. Now we have a better picture of the country, the routes to be taken and where we must concentrate our energies--certainly Winnipeg, due in part to our being involved in the CCF National Convention there on the way out, was not sufficiently worked over.

Next year every attempt should be made to carry out an interim tour of the main points in Ontario. This could be done without any of the elaborate preparation and outlays necessitated by the national tour. In the next period the contacts established by the tour must be consolidated. The paper will do much of this but a regularised correspondence will have to be developed and maintained. In this way we will encourage these contacts to circulate our press. We will bring them closer to us, encourage them to consolidate forces around our press and our program and organise branches of our movement right across the continent.

fraternally,

Kent

Kent.

569 Yonge Street
October 27, 1956

Kerry? (SWP, Nasiyuk) Editor ISR

Dear Tom;

Thanks for the note Gabriel Glazer of Montreal.

We know this chap. He came into the store a couple of months ago. He is a law student and when we first met him considerably under the influence of the Monthly Review. He has had no practical experience in the trade union or political movement but is quite intelligent and appears to be quite serious. Yes, he has a group around him of some type and we are trying to encourage him to pull it up tighter. It appears that they are predominately petty bourgeois intellectuals but last time he came in he told us that he had some flimsy contact with the Stalinist Labor Progressive Party . We spent some time with him encouraging him to start to move around t ere--particularly to attempt to make contact with Gui Caron, the long time provincial leader of the LPP who has just resigned.

From his last conversation with us I would say that he has come much closer. He thinks highly of the Militant, the Vanguard and ISR. I hate like hell to see us subsidize people like this to the tune of 6 copies a week--they have the money --but it is possible that they work the same arrangement with the National Guardian Monthly Review, etc. He has dunned us for free copies of Bevan's Tribune which we carry in the store and the Vanguard. We have reluctantly come across--when next he is in I intend to ask him for a donation to our financial drive.

I think that it would be worth our while to send these people the free copies of the Militant and a couple of the ISR.

I am enclosing a copy of the Tribune for your perusal. You will note Gui Caron resignation statement. All in all very good I think aside from what appear to me to be a few honest misunderstandings on such matters as the dictatorship of t e proletarait and one party rule, and international relations between communist parties. We are attemtping to make contact. I have written Caron opening the pages of the paper to him. We have sent the group sample copies of the Militant, Vanguard and ISR.

Possibly you make this this statement of resignation valuable for the coming Militant....he sees no possiblitiy of reform of the Stalinist parties.

fraternally

Ross Dowson

We are planning to make a trip to Montreal just as soon as we complete the election campaign that is now in the offing---we hope Glazer will have been able to pull something together and that Caron and others will be approachable.

569 Yonge St.
Toronto 5, Ont.

founding 1956

Dear Comrades,

You will be elated to hear that as a result of the national tour our paper now has well over 1,000 subscribers.

You will readily see that this gives us the advantageous mailing rate we sought and provided us with tremendous opportunities.

As of October 1st we have initiated a Workers Vangard Fund Drive - as you will see from the current issue of the paper. We need $1500 to see us through to the end of the year and we have until Dec. 1st to raise it.

This is just a short note to supplement the general appeal and to urge you to take some immediate action - to ask also that you forward a subsequent transfusion before the mad season of Yule overtakes your all too slim paychecks.

By the way, the bare total of subs scarcely tells the full story of our success as several Vanguard Clubs have been set up both within and outside the CCF. I wonder whether you have considered the unique position of our paper which is the only voice of Marism in Canada?

May I once again urge that you act in this matter at once and also see what contacts you have and forward a further donation before the close of the campaign? I would suggest that you approach our new readers in your area directly as they will be very willing to help and would also appreciate this organizational gesture. A full list of subscribers will be forwarded as soon as the tourists reach Toronto.

With comradely socialist greetings,

R Dowson

R. Dowson,

Nat. Secy.